

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Andrew Osmun. I am a resident of New Haven. I write to ask you not to vote HB 5335 out of Committee.

My Parents moved from their home to a retirement community in Florida in the late 1980's. They lived in an apartment and when my father had a heart attack it was discovered how far my mother's dementia had progressed. She was moved into the nursing home part of the facility while my father had to move from the apartment into a continuing care room that was the intermediate step between the apartment and a full care room that my mother went into. I was responsible for medical decisions for my mother.

The Medical Doctor for the facility at one time noticed an infection that wasn't healing on my mother's leg. He asked to be able to amputate the leg so as to stop the infection from spreading. For a woman who couldn't do anything for herself and had no ability to recognize anyone or talk coherently. I refused and was angry that the doctor would suggest such a violent, unnecessary treatment. Later when my mother developed pneumonia they began to try to cure the pneumonia and I had to stop them. During the first two weeks of my mother's time in the nursing wing someone filling in a nursing shift took her engagement and wedding rings.

The idea that people on the registry pose a great danger to residents is completely misplaced. My experience is that it was the staff of the facility that were a danger to my mother. Persons on the registry are shown by study after study to rarely reoffend and as they age the potential for reoffense drops to nearly zero. It has been shown in study after study that the registry of persons who have committed sexual offenses does not create more safety. It rather turns a whole group of people into societal lepers and forces the creation of 'leper colonies' to keep them apart - for no gain and for a whole catalogue of collateral consequences that serve no useful societal purpose.

The impact of this bill would be to take a couple and admit one and send the other....where? This is as unjust as it is against the freedoms that are guaranteed in the US Constitution.

Please do not let this bill out of the committee.

Thank you,

Andrew Osmun,
Member of Restorative Action Alliance. s